

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 18, and 20 have been amended as shown above.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application.

Reconsideration and full allowance of Claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejects Claims 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In particular, the Office Action asserts that Claims 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, and 17 intermix the terms “source” and “signal line.” (*Office Action, Page 2, Section 2, Second paragraph*).

The Applicants have amended the claims as shown above. The Applicants’ specification shows that a “charge redistribution circuit” is coupled along a “signal line.” One portion of the signal line couples the charge redistribution circuit to a source, and another portion of the signal line couples the charge redistribution circuit to a load. The Applicants believe that these amendments clarify the claims and resolve the ambiguity noted in the Office Action.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 112 rejection. Moreover, because the Office Action expressly withdrew all other rejections of Claims 5 and 11, the Applicants respectfully request an indication that Claims 5 and 11 are allowable.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,574,633 to Prater (“*Prater*”). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

A prior art reference anticipates a claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if every element of the claimed invention is identically shown in that single reference, arranged as they are in the claims. (*MPEP* § 2131; *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566, 1567 (*Fed. Cir.* 1990)). Anticipation is only shown where each and every limitation of the claimed invention is found in a single prior art reference. (*MPEP* § 2131; *In re Donohue*, 766 F.2d 531, 534, 226 U.S.P.Q. 619, 621 (*Fed. Cir.* 1985)).

Claims 1, 7, and 13 recite that a “load portion” of a signal line is isolated from a “source” by a “charge redistribution circuit” entering a “high impedance state.” Claims 1, 7, and 13 also recite that the “load portion” of the signal line is connected to an “intermediate floating virtual source/sink.”

The Office Action relies on elements n12 of *Prater* as anticipating the “signal lines” recited in the claims. (*Office Action, Page 3, Section 4*). The elements n12 of *Prater* could be viewed in one of two ways. The elements n12 of *Prater* either (i) represent continuous lines that are not separated into sections, or (ii) represent lines separated into sections by elements n30.

In the first case, *Prater* cannot anticipate Claims 1, 7, and 13 because *Prater* cannot isolate a “portion” of a signal line from a “source” or connect a “portion” of a signal line to an “intermediate floating virtual source/sink.” In this case, the elements n12 of *Prater* are not

divided and therefore a “portion” of the elements n12 cannot be isolated or connected to an intermediate floating virtual source/sink.

In the second case, the elements n30 of *Prater* divide the lines n12 into sections. In this case, the elements n30 may separate the portions of the lines n12 on their left from the portions of the lines n12 on their right. However, the elements n30 would not connect part of the lines n12 to an “intermediate floating virtual source/sink” (which the Office Action asserts is anticipated by element 36 in *Prater*). Rather, the portions of the lines n12 to the left of the elements n30 are coupled directly to element 36. As a result, the elements n30 of *Prater* do not anticipate both isolating a “load portion” of a signal line from a “source” and connecting the “load portion” of the signal line to an “intermediate floating virtual source/sink” as recited in Claims 1, 7, and 13.

The Advisory Action asserts that elements 40 and 312 of *Prater* could represent “essentially the same” elements as a “first portion” and “second portion” of a signal line. (*Advisory Action, Section 3(d)*). However, elements 40 and 312 cannot be relied upon by the Patent Office as anticipating the “source” and “load portion” recited in Claims 1, 7, and 13. Specifically, the Patent Office cannot show that any other elements in *Prater* “isolate” elements 40 and 312 by “entering a high impedance state.” *Prater* never recites that the signal 40 can actually be provided as the signal 312. Rather, *Prater* recites that the signal 40 is used to generate control signals for gates of the transistors n25, n27, and n34. (*Col. 6, Lines 44-46; Col. 7, Lines 35-37*). In other words, the signal 40 is never provided as the signal 312 in *Prater* but is instead used to control transistors that drive signal 312. Because of this, the signal 40 is never

“isolated” from the signal 312 by a component in *Prater* entering a high impedance state. As a result, elements 40 and 312 of *Prater* cannot be used to anticipate a “charge redistribution circuit” that isolates a “load portion” of a signal line from a “source” by “entering a high impedance state” as recited in Claims 1, 7, and 13.

For these reasons, *Prater* fails to anticipate the Applicants’ invention as recited in Claims 1, 7, and 13 (and their dependent claims). Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102 rejection and full allowance of Claims 1-4, 6-10, and 12-20.

III. CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims in this application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request full allowance of the claims.

SUMMARY

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at wmunck@davismunck.com.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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